

King County Benchmark Program: 1996 - 2004

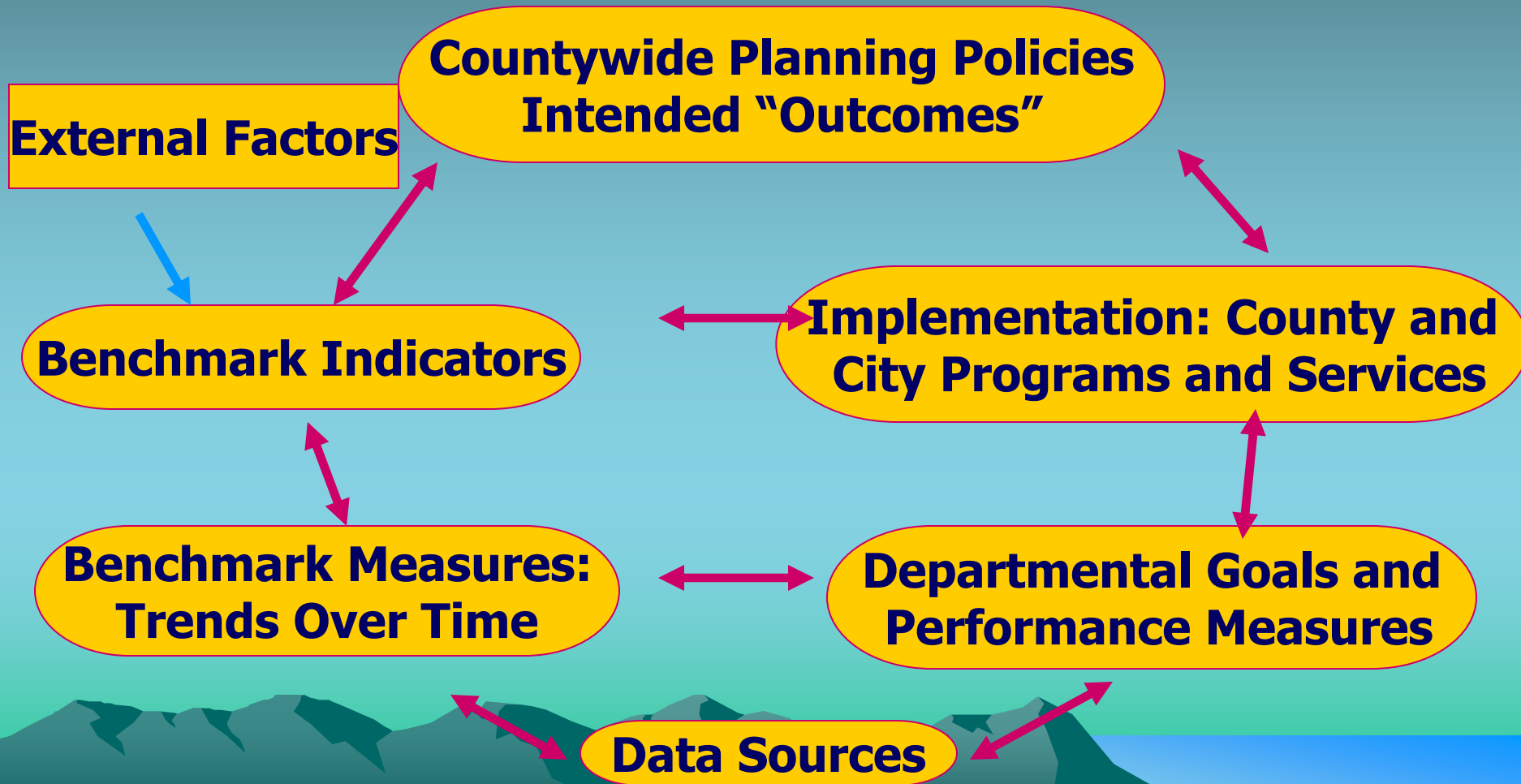
Significant Trends in King County and
Implications for Implementing Countywide
Policies

Recommendations for Benchmark Program and
Indicator Development



The Process: Moving from Policy to Program Implementation to Information to Revision

The King County Benchmark Program has reported annually on growth management outcomes based on the goals and objectives of the Countywide Planning Policies for the past eight years.



Benchmark Program Achievement

The King County Benchmark Program has been recognized nationally and internationally for its pioneering efforts in the area of public performance measurement:

- Chosen as U.S. case study at conferences in Edmonton, Alberta, Victoria, BC and Vancouver, BC
- Example of excellence in analysis of outcomes by Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)
- Interviewed by GAO, federal H.U.D. consultants, AGA (Assoc. of Governmental Accountants), and various other groups as prototype of public performance reporting.

Our greatest and ongoing challenge is to strengthen the connection between outcome measurement and policy implementation, while maintaining a high quality of information and analysis.



Current Efforts

I. Connecting benchmark trends to strategic implementation of the CPPs

- Recognizing significant success in many policy areas
- Focusing and energizing program efforts in areas showing problematic trends

II. Providing for ongoing improvement of quality and relevancy of Benchmark monitoring:

- Benchmark Advisory Group (separate work group or as a sub-committee of IJT)
- Recommendations for changes in some Indicators

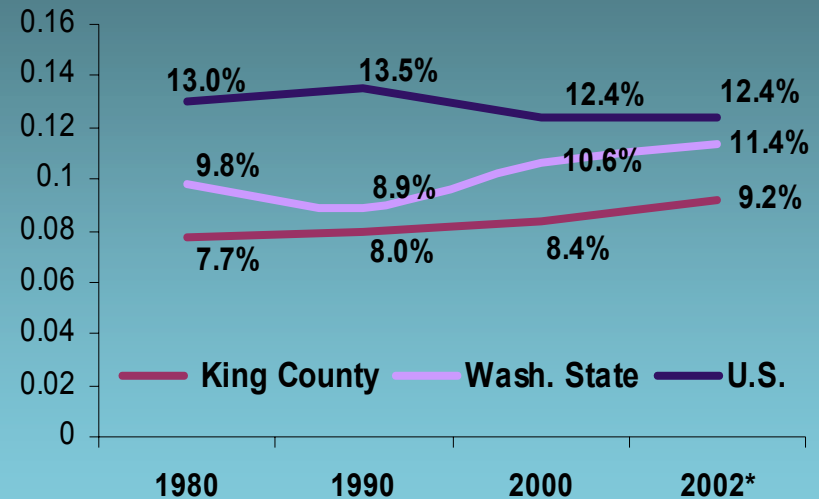


Countywide Policy Goal: Promote Family Wage Jobs, Reduce Poverty, Increase Business Formation

Trends Identified

- Wages have stagnated - rising less than the level of inflation in 2000 - 2002.
- Poverty is growing in King County: compared to 1990 a higher percentage of residents were below the poverty level in 2002, and a higher percentage earned less than 50% of median income.
- There are positive signs of business vitality reviving.

Population Below Poverty Level



Strategy Needed

- Continue and expand efforts to attract business and achieve full employment in jobs that pay “family wages” rather than only minimum wage.

Countywide Policy Goal: Increase Educational Skill Levels

Trends Identified:

- Between one-third and one-fourth of King County high school students do not graduate with their class (cohort graduation rate)
- Yet King County has one of the most educated adult (over age 25) populations in the U.S., with 91% having graduated from high school and 42% having a college degree

Strategies Needed:

- Emphasize the high level of education of adult population, but aggressively address the comparatively poor graduation rate from many of King County's public high schools.
- Provide for both better retention of current students and alternative high-school completion and skill-building programs
- Strengthen bonds between school districts and community initiatives



Countywide Policy Goal: Encourage Growth in Urban Areas and Urban Centers, Make Efficient Use of Urban Land

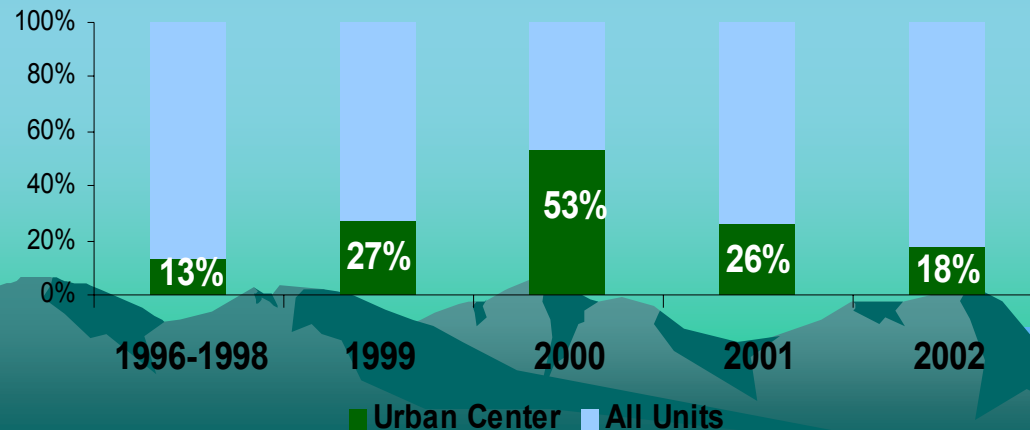
Trends Identified:

- From 1999 to 2001, King County exceeded its goal that 25% of residential units would be located in Urban Centers.
- However, in 2002, only 18% of new housing units were in Urban Centers, and nearly all of them were in Seattle and Bellevue rather than in the suburban Urban Centers.

Strategy Needed

- Continue and expand efforts to develop Urban Centers, particularly those outside of the central cities
- Coordinate development and public transit efforts in the Urban Centers

Urban Center Residential Development as a Percent of New Residential Permits Issued



Countywide Policy Goal: Supply Sufficient Affordable Housing for All, Equitably Distributed

Trends Identified:

- The rental market is serving those at 50 - 80% of median income fairly well.
- There is still a deficit of 70,000 units for those who earn under 30% of median income,
- Workforce housing is unequally distributed around the County
- No Eastside cities having a sufficient supply of low income housing.

Strategy Needed

- Increase housing units affordable to those below 50% of median, especially in Eastside sub-area.
- Provide more public support - both monetary and regulatory - to assure an adequate supply of housing for those below 30% to 40% of median income throughout the County.
- Recognize that the market will not meet the need for this lowest income group.

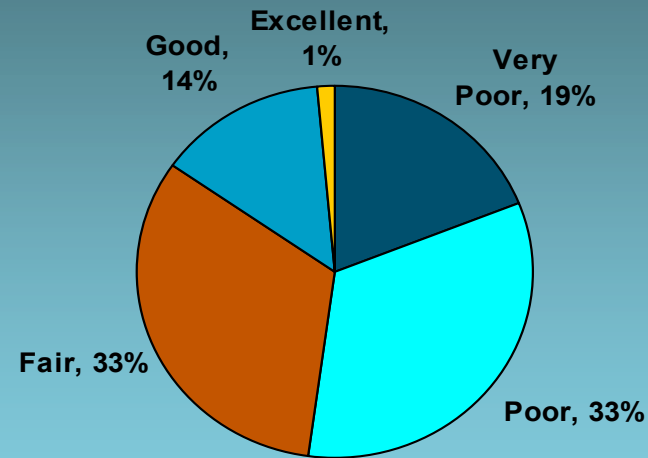
Supply and Demand for Affordable Rental Housing: 2003			
Percent of Median Income of HH	Number of Market Rate Affordable Rental Units (Includes vacant as well as occupied)***	Number of Rental Households in this Income Group	Cumulative Deficit or Surplus of Supply to Demand
Under 30%	4,183	74,300	(70,117)
30 - 40%	70,384	24,000	(23,733)
40 - 50%	48,825	18,900	6,192
50 - 60%	40,135	30,300	16,027

Countywide Policy Goal: Protect Water Quality and Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat

Trends Identified

- 52% of the sampled streams in King County are in poor or very poor condition – most of these are in the urban area or urban-rural fringe.
- Only 3% of the acreage in the urban sub-basins is of medium to high quality as habitat.
- 88% of the acreage in the rural sub-basins is medium-high or high quality
- Growth of impervious surface is a major contributor to stream and habitat degradation

Percent of Stream Stations in Each Condition Category



Strategies Needed

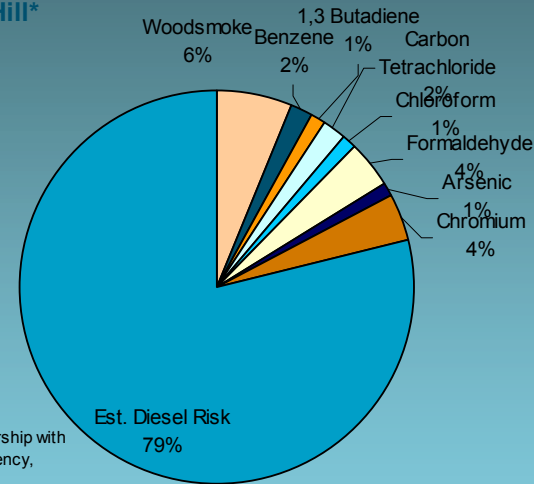
- Continue regulations and programs that protect the good quality of streams and habitat in the rural area
- Make reasonable efforts to restore stream and habitat quality in urban areas, especially where degradation is reversible

Countywide Policy Goal: Improve Air Quality

Trends Identified:

- Air toxics in King County pose an unacceptably high risk of cancer and aggravate respiratory disease.
- Diesel emissions and woodsmoke together account for over 85% of the risk of cancer-causing air toxics
- Use of diesel fuel in King County has increased 28% since 1996.

Percent Contributions
to Total Cancer Risk
at Beacon Hill*



*Monitored by WA State Dept. of Ecology, in partnership with Puget Sound Clear Air Agency, and USEPA. 2001 Data

Strategies Needed

- Continue and strengthen “Diesel Solutions” program and other public-private initiatives to reduce harmful emissions
- Set aggressive goals for reduction of vehicle emissions in King County through use of cleaner fuels and more efficient vehicles

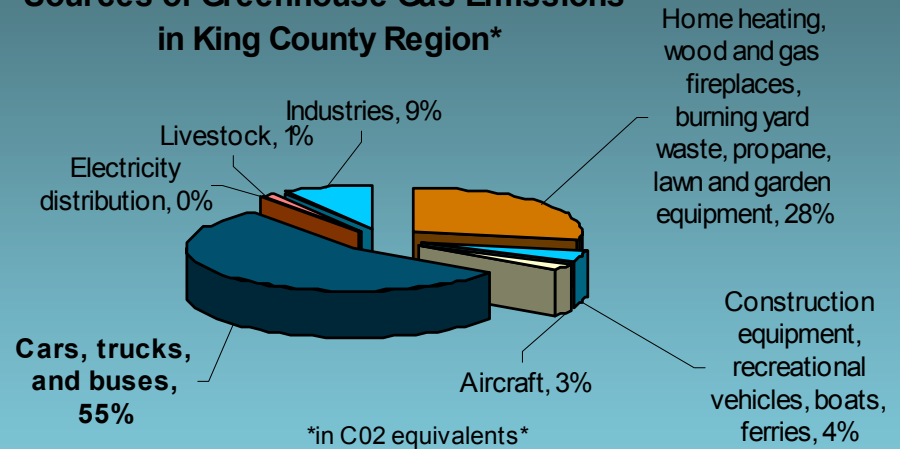
Countywide Policy Goal: Improve Air Quality

Trends Identified:

- Greenhouse gas emissions in this County are a significant contributor to human-induced climate change.
- 55% of climate-changing emissions in King County come from motor vehicles
- The eight warmest years on record* occurred in the last nine years (1995 – 2003).

* Globally, since accurate data became available in the late 19th century

Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
in King County Region*



Strategies Needed

- Reduce total vehicle miles traveled
- Encourage creative ways to increase the proximity of jobs and housing
- Promote use of public transportation or other alternatives to the SOV
- Reduce gas and diesel use through more efficient vehicles

Countywide Policy Goal: Increase Use of Modes of Transport other than Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOVs)

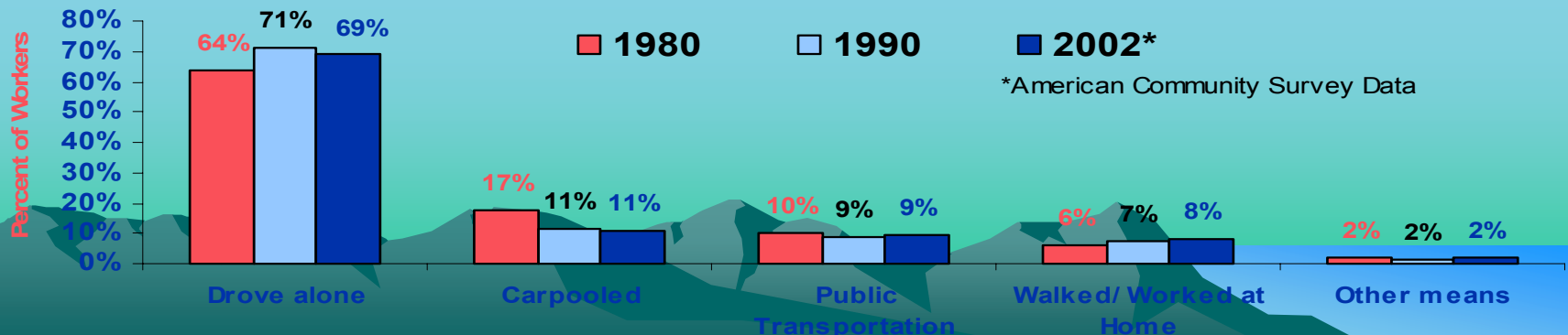
Trends Identified:

- 69% of workers still commute to work via SOVs.
- In 1980, just 64% commuted by SOV.
- With population and economic growth, more vehicles are traveling more miles on our roads, even though each of us is driving about the same amount.
- Vehicles are the source of 80% of the cancer risk, and 55% of climate-changing emissions in King County.

Strategies Needed

- Reinforce programs which aim to reduce SOV trips
- Improve availability and use of alternative modes of transport
- Bring jobs and a variety of housing choices closer together

Use of Alternate Modes of Transportation to Work
in King County: 1980, 1990, and 2002



Next Steps for Benchmark Program and Indicator Development

1. **Continue reporting on Benchmark Indicators in current bi-monthly topical format**
2. **Creation of a Benchmark Advisory Group, working with IJT**
3. **Recommendations for Changes to Specific Indicators (Advise to proceed, or take formal action).**



Benchmark Program and Indicator Development:

- I. **Continue reporting on the Benchmark Indicators on an annual basis in the bi-monthly topical bulletin format (5 issues per year), as done in 2003 – 2004.**

Pros

- Allows readers to focus on a limited set of related indicators rather than absorbing data from 45 indicators at once
- More up-to-date data on the current topic.
- Cost of publication is about the same

Cons

- Relationships between trends in different topic areas are less obvious.
- Report has less “solidity”, i.e. possibly less recognition than as an “annual report”.

Alternatives:

- Return to single annual report format or
- Continue to evaluate bi-monthly vs. annual format



Benchmark Program and Indicator Development (2)

II. Work with IJT to establish a Benchmark Advisory Group as a sub-committee of IJT or as a staff working group.

- 7 or 8 members drawn from IJT, program manager, and possibly technical experts
- Would provide broader leadership and direction for the Benchmark Program, and a connection to the GMPC.
- As conduit to local staff and decision-making bodies would strengthen the connection between benchmark monitoring, and local decision-making
- Decisions about changes in indicators or other minor program developments could be handled without formal motions by GMPC.
- Significant developments would be brought to GMPC.



Recommendations on Specific Indicators

Substantive Change

Indicator 36: Land with Six Years of Infrastructure Capacity

- Remove this Indicator until further work in this area can provide a viable way to measure it OR
- Table it, with intention to eventually replace it with a more narrowly-defined indicator for which data is available

Minor Changes (Wording or Re-grouping)

Indicator 8: High School Graduation Rate

Change to: High School Cohort Graduation Rate

Indicator 34: Ratio of Achieved Density to Allowed Density of Residential Development

Change to: Trend in Achieved Density of Residential Development



Recommendations on Specific Indicators (2)

Indicator 39: Acres in Forest and Farmland

Change to: Acres in Forest Land

Indicator 40: Number and Average Size of Farms

Change to: Acres in Farmland and Number and Average Size of Farms

Indicator 28: Public Dollars Spent for Low Income Housing

Change to: Number of Low Income Units Created or Preserved, and Public Dollars Spent for Low Income Housing

Affordable Housing Indicators (esp. rental housing)

- Currently CPPs call for tracking affordability for those under 50% of median income, 50 – 80% of median income, and 80 – 120% of median income.

Suggested change:

- In indicators dealing with rental data, it would be more useful to disaggregate the lower income categories to reflect finer distinctions, e.g.: 0 – 30%, 30 – 40% and 40 – 50%. It seems less important to report on groups over 80% of median income for rental data.

